



# MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

### PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

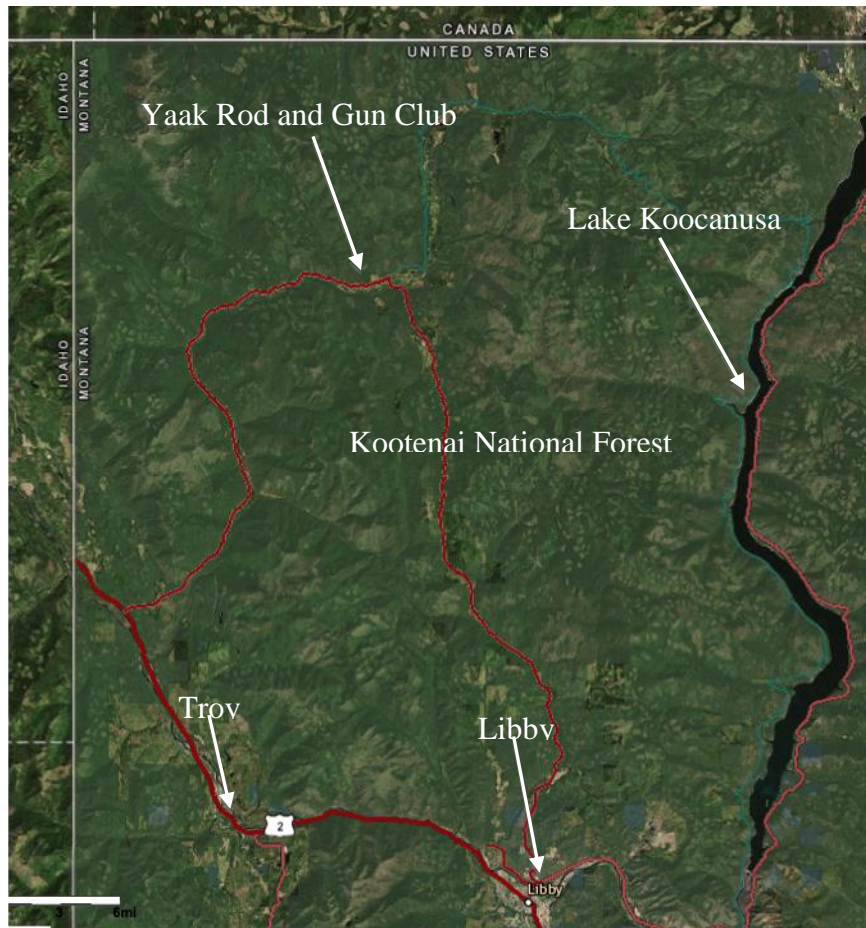
**1. Project Title:** Yaak Rod and Gun Club (YRGC) Improvement Project

**2. Type of Proposed Action:**

Members of the Yaak Rod and Gun Club propose to construct a 30' X 40' addition to the clubhouse at the Yaak Rod and Gun Club Range.

**3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:**

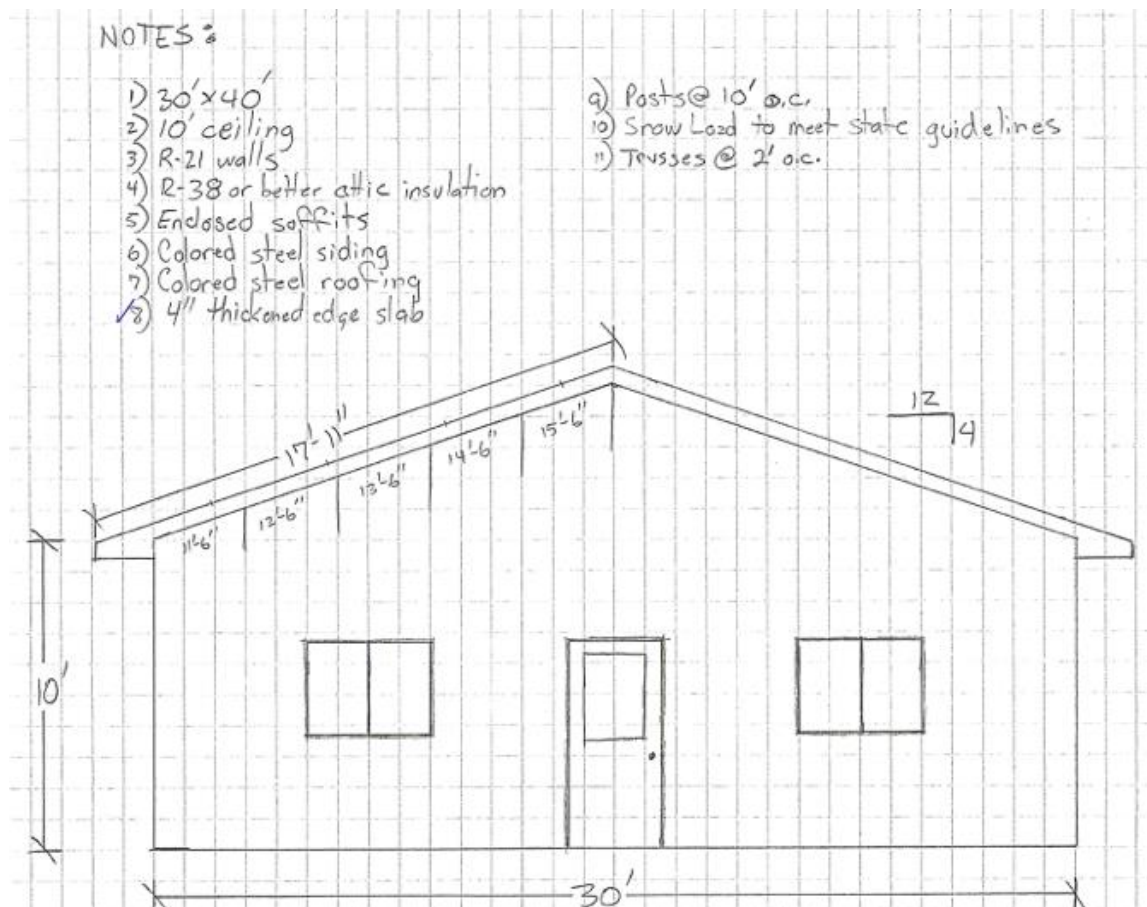
The Yaak Rod and Gun Club is located on Montana Highway 508, Yaak River Road, approximately 40 miles northeast of Troy, Montana at Shooting Range Road, Troy, MT; Section 2, Township 35 North, Range 32 West (Figure 1 and 2).



**Figure 1. General Location of Yaak Rod and Gun Club, Troy, MT.**



**Figure 2 – Yaak Rod and Gun Club Project Area, Troy, Montana.**



### **Figure 3. Yaak Rod and Gun Club Concept Plan, Troy, Montana.**

**4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action:** MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

*(a)(i) Shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;*

*(ii) May not limit the number of members;*

*(iii) May charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*

*(iv) Shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*

*(b) Shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

### **5. Need for the Action(s):**

The YRGC serves approximately 100 members and a variety of non-members for shooting and non-shooting activities. It is the only shooting facility within forty miles and is a hub of the community. Activities include: trap shooting, skeet shooting, pistol, rifle, exercise classes, FWP Hunter Education, Women on Target, community meetings, cross country ski race, and Yaak Women's Club. All these will benefit from an improved facility.

### **6. Objectives for the Action(s):**

The 2019 goal for the Yaak Rod and Gun Club is to expand the YRGC clubhouse, including ADA compliant bathroom facilities, and to construct a handicap-accessible parking area and building entrance in order to improve the long-term usefulness and convenience of the facility the club members, local community, and general public.

### **7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:**

The proposed project would involve approximately 1/4 acre of the 28-acre Yaak Rod and Gun Club Range.

### **8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):**

The Yaak Rod and Gun Club Range is located on 28 acres of public land leased from Lincoln County. The Yaak Rod and Gun Club entered into a 40-year lease of county-owned land in 2006. The property is not located within a floodplain and there are no permanent surface waters or wetlands on the property. The range offers shooting opportunities for rifle, pistol, shotgun, and black powder shooting.

### **9. Description of Project:**

The proposed project involves construction of a 30' X 40' addition to the YRGC clubhouse, including a handicap-accessible bathroom, a solid gravel entrance road with parking area, and a handicap-accessible ramp and door at the building entrance.

▪ Design/Engineering/Architect	\$ 0
▪ Labor and Contracted Services	\$ 2,000
▪ Construction/Materials	\$ 47,360
▪ Misc. Expenses	\$ 0
▪ Total Project Budget	\$ 49,360
▪ Total Funding Requested from FWP	\$ 24,680

**10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:**

None

**Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
N/A		

**Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$ 24,680

**11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:**

The Yaak Rod and Gun Club is located on 28 acres of public land lease to the Yaak Rod and Gun Club by Lincoln County. This is a private range with a membership fee of \$20 for individuals and \$30 for families, though the range is open to visitors and guests of members for free or a small fee. The Yaak Rod and Gun Club hosts approximately 20 events each year and approximately 6 organizations use the range each year, including: Women on Target, FWP Hunter Education, US Forest Service, MT DEQ, and Camp Patriot. In addition, other activities sponsored by the Yaak Rod and Gun Club are held at the range.

**12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:**

Because the Yaak Rod and Gun Club is a nonprofit private shooting club for members, there has been no public involvement in the planning process. Proposed range development proposals have been discussed with the club members and the associated project vendors and contractors.

**13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**14. Names, Address, and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:**

- Jim Mayo, 22266 Yaak River Road, Troy, MT 59935. (406) 295-3406.

**15. Other Pertinent Information:**

The Yaak Rod and Gun Club is a private nonprofit shooting club. The closest shooting range providing similar shooting opportunities is in Troy, Montana, about 40 miles from the Yaak Rod and Gun Club.

Shooting range applications require the participating governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: January 13, 2019.

**PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES**

**Alternative A, the Proposed Alternative, and Alternative B, the No Action Alternative,** were considered.

**Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 9 (Description of Project): to

construct an addition to the clubhouse at the Yaak Rod and Gun Club Range. There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative**.

**Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without the proposed improvements. The No Action alternative would have no significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences. The range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

**Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the No Action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:** Only the proposed alternative and the No Action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the No Action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

**Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:**

None. Only the proposed alternative and the No Action alternative were considered. There was no other alternative that were deemed reasonably available, or prudent. Neither the **Proposed Alternative** nor the **No Action Alternative** would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

**List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations):**

None

**PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmentally sensitive areas.

**Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.**

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		2
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		4
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		5
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		7
8. Air quality or						

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

**2. & 5.** There are no delineated wetlands or natural water sources within the area proposed for development. No critical wildlife habitat is located on the site and, therefore, would not be affected by the proposed project. The proposed project would have only minor and short-term impacts on wildlife and native plant species. Resident or transient wildlife may temporarily leave the area during construction but would return upon project completion.

**4.** The proposed project will have little to no impact on the overall abundance and diversity of plant species within the area. The proposed project occupies a small portion of the property. Due to prior land use, native vegetation has been disturbed in the area of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will have a minor impact on native vegetation in the area.

**7.** The proposed project will cause little or no displacement of soils but the developments will not substantially effect geological features or establish new erosion patterns. Soil disruption for this site is localized. Erosion control measures will be in effect and disturbed area will be reseeded.

**9.** This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

**Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.**

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		4
5. Human health				X		

6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		7
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

4. The site is not under agricultural production.

7. The proposed developments will increase shooting opportunities within the community.

#### **PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. The project reviewed is not complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The project being implemented is already on an existing range or altered area that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action and indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative.

The Yaak Rod and Gun Club's Proposed Alternative, to construct an addition to the YRGC clubhouse, is supported by its members and the public. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the Proposed Alternative (A) for the improvements as outlined in Part I, Paragraph 9.

#### **PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

**Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?** No

**Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?** Individually, the proposed action will have minor impacts. However, it was determined that there are no significant or potentially significant cumulatively impacts. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no

conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

**Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:**

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore, an EIS is not required.

**PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION**

**Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:**

- Jim Mayo, 22266 Yaak River Road, Troy, MT 59935. (406) 295-3406.
- MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

**EA prepared by:**

Andrea Darling, Darling Natural Resource Consulting, Montana City, MT 59634

**Date Completed:**

April 4, 2019

**Describe public involvement, if any:**

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the *Western News, Lincoln, MT* announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and comment period.